

THE EVENING STAR.

With Sunday Morning Edition.

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THEODORE W. NOYES.....Editor

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The Sea Serpent of Politics.

Senator Cummins has no new party in mind, and knows of no plans for forming one. Senator La Follette has submitted his claims as a republican to an endorsement for another term.

Senator La Follette has been renominated as a republican. If insurgency meant a new party surely these men would know it and be helping along the movement. They stood in the front line of the republican opposition in the Senate to the Payne bill, and Mr. Cummins and Mr. La Follette were aggressive critics last spring of some features of the administration's railroad bill.

Talk of a new party as a result of republican differences about tariff revision is a device of the enemy for effect in November. It is designed to affect the weak-kneed voters who pass easily from one party to another when times are squally and hope of reward for a change of sides is held out.

The November result will be very important. There are politicians who think that if the democrats carry the next House by a substantial majority many republicans who this year will vote their party's ticket will in 1912 vote with the democrats. They will read the returns as the doom of their old party and the quick to ally themselves with the winners. As worms are for early birds, they will be among the earliest.

On the other hand, there are politicians—some of them democrats—who believe that a republican reverse this year would operate as a cementer of party divisions. Standard-bearers and insurgents alike would be warned by it. Instead of drawing farther apart they would draw together. Having fallen as the result of dividing, they would unite and stand again. Men in straits are sometimes wise. It is prospecting long continued that begets recklessness and intolerance.

As a political organization the republican party is not old. It has wielded much power and done great things, but surely it has not exhausted itself. Its rival has passed through many vicissitudes, but it is still in action. The history of the democratic party illustrates very forcibly how tenacious of life a political organization is.

But it is the time for rumors. It is midsummer. The sea serpent is swimming into the ken of humorous chroniclers, and a new political party is a companion invention. Prospective persons are for profits in both cases. But prospective persons are lacking in humor, and their doubts and demands are out of order.

Feminine High Flyers.

When the heavier-than-air flying machine was proved to be a mechanical possibility it was predicted that aviation would soon become as common to that of automobilism or, in the earlier days, bicycling. Despite recent mishaps in the air which have cost the lives of several experimenters this forecast seems likely to be verified. Already factories are turning out airplanes to order both in this country and abroad, and soon it will be possible for any one who fancies an aerial career to equip himself with an up-to-date machine of any one of half a dozen or more types. Indeed, there are now at work several thousand skilled artisans making airplanes for public use, and in all probability next season will see an airplane owned privately in every large city, while possibly the town that does not possess a sky pilot among its followers of venturesome sport will feel declassified and distanced in the race of progress. It has been announced that three French monoplanes are now on their way across the Atlantic, having been manufactured especially for the American feminine market. They are in every respect the most ladylike machines that have been turned out thus far, and it is the hope of their manufacturers that after they have been demonstrated by a trio of exceedingly attractive Parisiennes there will be almost a competition for their ownership, and the American market for these machines will have been established. It will require only the enlistment of one or two of the American society leaders in the ranks of the aviators to set the fashion in a manner to make the fortune of any manufacturer who is in position to supply the demand for something particularly attractive in the way of an aerodrome.

Stealing From the Coinage.

Many years ago it was the practice of certain people who desired to get wealth without working for it to take the coin of the realm and snip off particles with strong shears, keeping the fragments and passing the mutilated mintage on to the next one. This process was known as clipping, and clippers were held in such serious official disesteem that detection in this ancient art of thievery was usually followed by an execution.

Risky sweating came into vogue. Coins were subjected to a heat that took off a film of precious metal from each, which was later recovered from the solution without loss, while the coins were passed back in circulation, to the unfraught eye as good as ever, but in fact considerably lighter.

Swearing the coin was a popular method of the government. It brought many a man to an untimely end in a manner not to be mentioned later by his posterity.

Of late clipping and sweating have passed virtually out of vogue. There was a new counterfeiting in numbers sufficient to give the secret service many a merry chase into the byways of the world, but in the main coinage has been above suspicion and beyond the reach of the tamperer who proceeds upon the economic theory that a feather in the coin weighs as much as its weight, as long as it bears the token of a governmental imprimatur and declaration of value. Lately, however,

the coin experts here in Washington have been considerably puzzled by a peculiar appearance presented by some of the gold coins returned to the Treasury. Though newly minted, they have been scratched and battered far more than coins many years older. So suspicious, indeed, has been this token of misuse that an investigation has been conducted, with the result of the discovery that by persons unknown large number of freshly minted gold coins are subjected to an effective process of thievery, which is similar to the old-style sweating or clipping. The coins, it appears, are put into a burlap bag, in which they are violently shaken for some time. By this means small particles are knocked off the edges and surfaces, without materially altering the appearance of the money. The bag is then burned, and the fine bits of gold are recovered in the form of melted lumps, which are sold to the refiners and jewelry manufacturers.

The law guards the currency as jealously as it did in the past, when clippers and sweaters took their lives in their hands whenever they undertook to steal metal from the money of the country. With the new coinage not sent to the scaffold. There is nowadays a sufficient penalty to cause this enterprise to be attended by a very decided risk, and it is quite probable that if these bag-shaking coin reducers are caught they will be reminded emphatically of the fact that when the United States declares a bit of gold to be worth five dollars that value is an absolute and not a relative statement of intrinsic worth. The fact that the silver dollar, so called, is in truth worth far less than one hundred cents, as regards the market price of the metal itself, is no justification for any person undertaking to establish a ratio more nearly equal to the famous 16 to 1 than that which now prevails, by lessening the actual value of the gold coinage.

Texas and Temperance.

The temperance fight in Texas has just begun. Saturday's primary makes that certain. With the vote winning the gubernatorial prize and the drys the platform, and the legislature dry by a two-thirds majority, a continuation of the contest is inevitable, and the probability strong for an increase of bitterness.

It is suggested that if the nominees for governor repudiate the prohibition plank of the platform an independent ticket will be put in the field. That of course would make the campaign one of extraordinary energy and excitement, but it would not give the state to the republicans. There is, properly speaking, no standard-bearer of the prohibition cause in Texas. The party in Texas is a new party, and the President filled a vacancy on the federal bench there by appointing a democrat.

Two tickets in Texas would simply show how deeply the temperance cause is rooted in southern sentiment, notwithstanding recent apparent reverses in standard-bearers and insurgents alike would be warned by it. Instead of drawing farther apart they would draw together. Having fallen as the result of dividing, they would unite and stand again. Men in straits are sometimes wise. It is prospecting long continued that begets recklessness and intolerance.

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Occasionally it is much more work for a man's friends to get him an office than it is for the holder of the position to fulfill its duties.

An easy and efficacious method of escaping unaccountable vexation is to stay at home until the climate changes.

Some statesmen regard the statement of ex-Senator Clark that he will not return to Washington as indicating a keen interest in political conditions.

The suspicions aroused whenever a man of prominence visits Alaska is calculated to do great damage to that territory's summer resort business.

The dirigible balloon differs from the aeroplane in being more pyrotechnic in its mishaps.

Motorists complain that pedestrians no longer heed their warning signals. So numerous have become the automatic vehicles and so crowded the thoroughfares that it calls for a more potent and especially strident sound to attract attention, and consequently the manufacturers of whistles, horns, honkers, hooters and other forms of attention-arresting contraptions have been turning out a wonderful assortment of signals, ranging from the feebleest of whistles to low howl that makes a noise like a grandfather goose to a musical instrument. Some of these devices utter fiendish cacklings as though the merriest fiends from the nether regions were loose in the streets uttering cries of joy at the sight of the automobile. So novel, in deed, are some of these noise-makers that they fail utterly of their purpose, which is to attract to all in front the approach of a swiftly moving motor.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

It must be gratifying to Mr. W. R. Hearst, a part of the season's most able to take a summer vacation and know that he will find his independence League safe among the moth balls where he left it.

Betty Green's son is said to weigh 300 pounds. This does not indicate any such extreme economy in Mrs. Green's household as has been reported.

It is not always certain whether demands for Col. Roosevelt's speeches are in recognition of his talents as an instructor or a voice-giver.

Uncle Joe Cannon still selects his vocabulary with a view to impressing himself upon his hearers as a plain, blunt man and not a witty diplomat.

With all its faults the Reno method in settling domestic difficulties is vastly preferable to that brought into notice at Lake Como.

The prophet who predicts the end of the world and the one who foresees a financial panic never allow themselves vacations.

The landsman who gleefully takes a shot at an aeroplane would rock the boat if he had a chance.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Cranial Enlargement.

"My boy Josh asked me to stop an' get him a straw hat," said Farmer Corn-tassel as he stepped into the shop.

"You are just in time," replied the salesman. "All our straw hats have just been reduced."

"I'm afraid they won't do for Josh. Not since he's been to the city. He'll want something that's been expanded."

Athletics.

"Is it necessary for a youth to kneel when he asks a young woman to marry him?" inquired the youth who reads novels.

"No," replied Miss Cayenne. "If I were you I'd do something original and startling and stand on my head."

Impartial Enthusiasm.

For either side they sound the drums and play "The Conquering Hero Comes."

"The lucky for campaigning tricks. A brass band has no politics."

A Mild Defy.

"What's that statue?" inquired Si Simling.

"That's Ajax defying the lightning."

"Hum! The way he looks and stands shows it wasn't 'Jersey lightning.'"

The Declining Sense of Humor.

"Do you think Americans have a great sense of humor?"

"Well," replied Senator Sorghum, "I'm afraid it isn't what it used to be. The folks out home are becoming so interested in economic issues that they don't seem to care much for the funny stories or not."

A Kentucky Legend.

Ol' Satan in de garden was a-talkin' 'bout de crops.

Adam look contented, 'cause de growin' never stops.

Sees de big tomato dat's a-warm'in' in de sun.

Ar de little watermelon dat is only jes' begun.

Satan say, "Dis happiness, it shore need sumpin' done!"

It didn't fully satisfy ol' Satan foh to see de trouble he could manage wif a single apple tree.

So he took de berry bushes an' he loaded 'em wif pins.

He fills de grass wif chigger-weed an' presently begins.

A-raisin' yaller jackets foh to punish de people's sins.

Den Satan got to thinkin' 'bout de meanness he done start.

An' wicked as he is, he sits a feelin' in his heart.

Says he: "Dat pore ol' Adam an' his tribe dey won't find any consolation in de years to come;

I reckon mebbe dat it's up to me to give 'em some."

"I'll hand 'em sumpin' dat'll hep 'em to drive deir cares away.

It ain't none of my business if de head-ache comes nex' day."

So he went out in de evenin' when de stars begin to glint;

He klick de groun' up wif his cloven foot an' in de print.

He plant a bunch o' sweetness an' perfumery called "mint."

Unreasonable Law.

From the Boston Herald.

Another batchload of Russian Jewish refugees is on the way to this country under the auspices of the American Jewish Aid Society, and will present a test case to the federal authorities whether or not the fact that they come here under the implied promise of this society to provide employment for them makes them ineligible for admission under the contract labor law. Surely it is better if some of the agency receives such immigrants and aids in their distribution about the country where there is room for them, than to have them dumped into New York city to hunt for such place of permanent labor.

A law is unreasonable that does not admit the benevolent effort of such societies as this.

The Fight Fraud.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

The fight pictures, depicting what was to be the pugilistic contest of the age, whatever may be said of the propriety of that form of entertainment, throw a curious light upon the whole prize-fighting enterprise. They show, as perhaps no other evidence could, that one of the most gigantic frauds of which there is any record in pugilism or any other activity was perpetrated upon the public. The episode of Lincoln, the effect that you can't fool all the people all the time, may express the truth, but for many months it plainly appears from the photographic films the whole American public was grievously fooled, and in all the multi-farious ways of intelligence there was no one to give the public a glimmer of the truth.

Every One Pleased.

Young's Delivery Wagons are praised on all sides. They are stylish and fully constructed.

T.E. Young, Repostory, Phone M. 27.

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Trunks Repaired, Phone M. 2000.

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4020-101, 4020-102, 4020-103, 4020-104, 4020-105, 4020-106, 4020-107, 4020-108, 4020-109, 4020-110, 4020-111, 4020-112, 4020-113, 4020-114, 4020-115, 4020-116, 4020-117, 4020-118, 4020-119, 4020-120, 4020-121, 4020-122, 4020-123, 4020-124, 4020-125, 4020-126, 4020-127, 4020-128, 4020-129, 4020-130, 4020-131, 4020-132, 4020-133, 4020-134, 4020-135, 4020-136, 4020-137, 4020-138, 4020-139, 4020-140, 4020-141, 4020-142, 4020-143, 4020-144, 4020-145, 4020-146, 4020-147, 4020-148, 4020-149, 4020-150, 4020-151, 4020-152, 4020-153, 4020-154, 4020-155, 4020-156, 4020-157, 4020-158, 4020-159, 4020-160, 4020-161, 4020-162, 4020-163, 4020-164, 4020-165, 4020-166, 4020-167, 4020-168, 4020-169, 4020-170, 4020-171, 4020-172, 4020-173, 4020-174, 4020-175, 4020-176, 4020-177, 4020-178, 4020-179, 4020-180, 4020-181, 4020-182, 4020-183, 4020-184, 4020-185, 4020-186, 4020-187, 4020-188, 4020-189, 4020-190, 4020-191, 4020-192, 4020-193, 4020-194, 4020-195, 4020-196, 4020-197, 4020-198, 4020-199, 4020-200, 4020-201, 4020-202, 4020-203, 4020-204, 4020-205, 4020-206, 4020-207, 4020-208, 4020-209, 4020-210, 4020-211, 4020-212, 4020-213, 4020-214, 4020-215, 4020-216, 4020-217, 4020-218, 4020-219, 4020-220, 4020-221, 4020-222, 4020-223, 4020-224, 4020-225, 4020-226, 4020-227, 4020-228, 4020-229, 4020-230, 4020-231, 4020-232, 4020-233, 4020-234, 4020-235, 4020-236, 4020-237, 4020-238, 4020-239, 4020-240, 4020-241, 4020-242, 4020-243, 4020-244, 4020-245, 4020-246, 4020-247, 4020-248, 4020-249, 4020-250, 4020-251, 4020-252, 4020-253, 4020-254, 4020-255, 4020-256, 4020-257, 4020-258, 4020-259, 4020-260, 4020-261, 4020-262, 4020-263, 4020-264, 4020-265, 4020-266, 4020-267, 4020-268, 4020-269, 4020-270, 4020-271, 4020-272, 4020-273, 4020-274, 4020-275, 4020-276, 4020-277, 4020-278, 4020-279, 4020-280, 4020-281, 4020-282, 4020-283, 4020-284, 4020-285, 4020-286, 4020-287, 4020-288, 4020-289, 4020-290, 4020-291, 4020-292, 4020-293, 4020-294, 4020-295, 4020-296, 4020-297, 4020-298, 4020-299, 4020-300, 4020-301, 4020-302, 4020-303, 4020-304, 4020-305, 4020-306, 4020-307, 4020-308, 4020-309, 4020-310, 4020-311, 4020-312, 4020-313, 4020-314, 4020-315, 4020-316, 4020-317, 4020-318, 4020-319, 4020-320, 4020-321, 4020-322, 4020-323, 4020-324, 4020-325, 4020-326, 4020-327, 4020-328, 4020-329, 4020-330, 4020-331, 4020-332, 4020-333, 4020-334, 4020-335, 4020-336, 4020-337, 4020-338, 4020-339, 4020-340, 4020-341, 4020-342, 4020-343, 4020-344, 4020-345, 4020-346, 4020-347, 4020-348, 4020-349, 4020-350, 4020-351, 4020-352, 4020-353, 4020-354, 4020-355, 4020-356, 4020-357, 4020-358, 4020-359, 4020-360, 4020-361, 4020-362, 4020-363, 4020-364, 4020-365, 4020-366, 4020-367, 4020-368, 4020-369, 4020-370, 4020-371, 4020-372, 4020-373, 4020-374, 4020-375, 4020-376, 4020-377, 4020-378, 4020-379, 4020-380, 4020-381, 4020-382, 4020-383, 4020-384, 4020-385, 4020-386, 4020-387, 4020-388, 4020-389, 4020-390, 4020-391, 4020-392, 4020-393, 4020-394, 4020-395, 4020-396, 4020-397, 4020-398, 4020-399, 4020-400, 4020-401, 4020-402, 4020-403, 4020-404, 4020-405, 4020-406, 4020-407, 4020-408, 4020-409, 4020-410, 4020-411, 4020-412, 4020-413, 4020-414, 4020-415, 4020-416, 4020-417, 4020-418, 4020-419, 4020-420, 4020-421, 4020-422, 4020-423, 4020-424, 4020-425, 4020-426, 4020-427, 4020-428, 4020-429, 4020-430, 4020-431, 4020-432, 4020-433, 4020-434, 4020-435, 4020-436, 4020-437, 4020-438, 4020-439, 4020-440, 4020-441, 4020-442, 4020-443, 4020-444, 4020-445, 4020-446, 4020-447, 4020-448, 4020-449, 4020-450, 4020-451, 4020-452, 4020-453, 4020-454, 4020-455, 4020-456, 4020-457, 4020-458, 4020-459, 4020-460, 4020-461, 4020-462, 4020-463, 4020-464, 4020-465, 4020-466, 4020-467, 4020-468, 4020-469, 4020-470, 4020-471, 4020-472, 4020-473, 4020-474, 4020-475, 4020-476, 4020-477, 4020-478, 4020-479, 4020-480, 4020-481, 4020-482, 4020-483, 4020-484, 4020-485, 4020-486, 4020-487, 4020-488, 4020-489, 4020-490, 4020-491, 4020-492, 4020-493, 4020-494, 4020-495, 4020-496, 4020-497, 4020-498, 4020-499, 4020-500, 4020-501, 4020-502, 4020-503, 4020-504, 4020-505, 4020-506, 4020-507, 4020-508, 4020-509, 4020-510, 4020-511, 4020-512, 4020-513, 4020-514, 4020-515, 4020-516, 4020-517, 4020-518, 4020-519, 4020-520, 4020-52